

Sept. 15, 1934.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Speer:

May one of the stenographers say how sorry she is at the news of your son's death.

The staff held a meeting today from 12 to 1 in the Assembly Room, Mr. Dyce leading. The prayers offered in your behalf by Mr. Dyce, Mr. Tennant & Mr. Howell were the loveliest that I

have ever heard. We
sang Mr. Dyce's hymn
"Hear to the Heart of God."

Hoping that you
will all be comforted
somehow, I am

Sincerely yours,

Alvin D. White

5 Prospect Place
New York City

September 17, 1934

"The Hill"

LAKE MAHOPAC, N. Y.

Telephone Mahopac 573

Ans
at 5

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer,

In this hour of
your great bereave-

ment, Mrs. Wilson &

I offer our deep

sympathy.

Very sincerely

Francis Wilson

518

West End Presbyterian Church
AMSTERDAM AVE. AT 105TH ST., NEW YORK
A. EDWIN KEIGWIN, D. D., LL. D., PASTOR
PAUL C. WARREN, S. T. D., ASSOCIATE PASTOR

October 13, 1934

Dear Dr. Spear, -

A group of our Elders, meeting together informally the other day on a certain matter, asked me to express to you and Mrs. Spear their sincere and heartfelt sympathy in the recent tragic loss of your son.

We know that the heart of the entire church has gone out to you in this hour of sorrow. But we feel that the people of West End are especially touched with your bereavement, for while they appreciate your long distinguished service to the Church they feel particularly close to you because of your helpful ministry when pulpit from Steve to time and because of your warm friendship for Dr. John Williams, whose memory we cherish.

We know that you have met this sorrow with the Christian faith and courage, which has characterized

your life and with the help of Him
with whom you have long communed.
But if it is a help to know that
you have many friends in that land
who love you with you and Mrs.
I speak in loving sympathy and
prayer, then we want you to know
it, and we send with this greeting
our affectionate regards.

Faithfully Yours,
Paul C. Harvey

P.S. I beg you not to bother
to acknowledge this.

FREDERIC W. SMITH
PRESIDENT

ADRIAN LYON
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W. SPENCER ROBERTSON
TREASURER

JOHN E. MANLEY
GENERAL SECRETARY

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

CORPORATE NAME
GENERAL BOARD OF THE YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATIONS
347 MADISON AVENUE, NEW YORK

October 1, 1934

E. G. WILSON
706 STANDARD BUILDING
ATLANTA, GA.

HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN REGION
706 STANDARD BUILDING
ATLANTA, GA.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
New York City.

Dear Dr. Speer:

Due to my absence from Atlanta so much of the time, this is the first opportunity I have had to write and express my deep sympathy for you and Mrs. Speer in connection with the sudden and tragic death of your son. I think there have been few of your friends who have been more grieved over the sad news and who have felt more keenly for you. I know that this has been the greatest sorrow that you have ever been called upon to face, and am quite sure that the God of all Comfort has been your Comfort in this sad hour. None of us can understand or explain such things.

I merely want you to know that one whose life you touched thirty-eight years ago at those Student Conferences at Asheville and whose influence still lingers in that life, deeply sympathizes with you in this sorrow. It has never been my pleasure to meet Mrs. Speer but in this hour I feel that I know her and wish you would kindly express my deepest sympathy to her also.

Yours sincerely,



E. G. Wilson

EGW-b

078

Steele Creek Presbyterian Church

J. M. WALKER, PASTOR

ROUTE 3, CHARLOTTE, N. C.

R. A. GRIER
CLERK OF SESSION

L. L. BROWN
TREASURER

Sept. 25, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Executive Secretary,
Board of Foreign Missions,
New York City, N. Y.

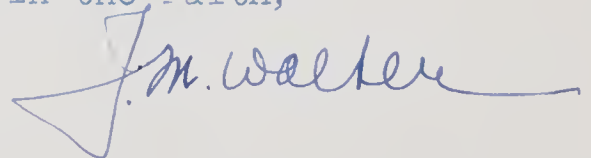
Dear Dr. Speer:

It was with the deepest sorrow Mrs. Walker and I read in the Presbyterian of the tragic death of your beloved son, Dr. Eliot. Our sorrow, I dare say, is the sorrow of the whole nation. Around the globe, men and women everywhere, have been stunned by the blow. To you and Mrs. Speer and all that was his we send our heart-felt sympathy. Our God alone can strengthen us for such an hour. May you have that strength.

Let me again tell you how much we were helped by those wonderful addresses of yours at Montreat this summer. In all your long and wonderful career, I feel sure the Holy Spirit never blessed any series of addresses more than he did those. They put iron in our veins for our great mission task. I thank you for them, and that it was my good fortune to hear them.

With a heart of sympathy, I am

Yours in the Faith,



P. S. Read Psalm 61:2.

P.S. 2 - you may recall I spoke for a few minutes for Dr. Purcell on our Regional Prayer meeting. I think it was just before your closing address -

Jmw.

578

The Board of Foreign Missions
OF THE SYNOD OF THE
Reformed Presbyterian Church in North America
Philadelphia, Pa.

CABLE ADDRESS "COVBOARD, PHILADELPHIA"

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WALTER MCCARROLL, D. D., TRANSPORTATION AGENT 1438 SHAKESPEARE AVE., NEW YORK
JOSEPH M. STEELE, TREASURER 124 NORTH FIFTEENTH STREET

September 15th.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
New York City.

My dear Friend:—

I am shocked beyond words at the overwhelming tragedy that has come to you and Mrs. Speer. I have just read of it in the Philadelphia papers. It is almost beyond belief that your son should thus have been brought to his earthly end! You are in my deepest and most affectionate thought, and I earnestly pray the gracious Lord Jesus to sustain you, and comfort you above all I could ask or think. You and Mrs. Speer will now have the same sufficient grace you have so often ministered to others. God help you with his presence and power.

Cordially,
Findley M. Wilson

578

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CULVER, INDIANA
(LAKE MAXINKUCKEE)

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CHIEF OF MEDICAL STAFF

CULVER
SUMMER NAVAL SCHOOL
SUMMER CAVALRY SCHOOL
SUMMER SCHOOL OF WOODCRAFT

September 23rd, 1934.

Mr. Robert E. Speer,
East Northfield, Mass.

My dear Mr. Speer,-

The first word of Elliott's death reached us when we saw an account of it in a Chicago paper. It was a shock to us, for I well remember boating with him at Eagles Mere when we were boys together, and in more recent years admiring him at a distance. Some years ago I had the pleasure of taking lunch with him and Edward Pulling on several occasions, during a summer we were all studying at Columbia.

Having three small sons of our own we can faintly imagine how you and Mrs. Speer must feel. Evelyn and I want to express to you our deepest sympathy, but words fail. Possibly you have seen the brief Indian thought, which, while lacking the comfort which comes thru Christ, is, it seems to me very beautiful.

"The Great Spirit has only taken to Him the Man. He will be happy in the happy hunting grounds of our fathers. The Great Spirit leaves the memory of the son He has taken to His Tepee."

Very sincerely yours,

M. Wistar Wood.

Morris Wistar Wood.

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of the Presbytery of Rochester

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415-416 Cutler Building
Telephone Stone 859
ROCHESTER, NEW YORK

<->

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[RESIDENCE, 225 CROYDON ROAD, TELEPHONE CULVER 1478-J]
MRS. VERA W. LANGTHORN, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COUNSELOR
MISS IONE G. DYE, SECRETARY

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OFFICERS OF WOMEN'S
PRESBYTERIAL SOCIETY
MRS. PAUL STRATTON
PRESIDENT
MISS ANNA RAYMOND
SECRETARY

Sept. 14th, 1934.

Dr Robert E. Speer
156 Fifth Avenue
New York.

Dear Dr Speer:-

Our hearts go out to you in deepest sympathy. We sorrow
with you--and pray that His comfort may be yours, and in Heaven's measure.

Sincerely yours,

Frank M. Weston

911

Commission on the
Church and Social Service

Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America
(Incorporated)
105 East Twenty-Second Street
New York

Sept. 17, 1934.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Spier,
24 Gramercy Park,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Friends:-

My sympathy and prayers
are for you in the presence of the deep sor-
row that has come to you. And I have
faith that God in his love will send
you some ray of light in the midst of
the darkness of great loss and bereave-
ment.

Yours faithfully,

L. Foster Wood.

and

Sept. 17 2 1934

My dear Robert:

I am shocked to read of the death of your son Elliott. I hope the guilty one is caught.

The enclosed article will prove that I have had some sad hours but you have gone through a sorrow that touches my heart. You have my love and sympathy.

Sincerely yours
Byram L. Winters

asks for article to be returned

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L. R. WHEELER

AMERICAN BANK BUILDING
PORTLAND, OREGON

9/18/34.

Dear Mr. Spur,

I feel that you have received a "tough" blow in the death of your son. I am terribly sorry and want to take this occasion to tell you how much you have meant to me. I used to hear you back at Hill School about once a month and felt that I knew you. Then at New Haven and Northfield I kept in touch with you. Your undiluted spiritual and moral food did me no end of good. That "lie never justifiable" and "little die-first" influence has always been clean cut. It was good seed. I wish my two boys and girl could get the same kind. It must be a source of imperturbable peace to you to feel that you have sowed such seed over so wide a portion of this sad old world. What could a man devote his life to that would compare fundamentally in importance with this?

Through my Cousin, Rex, I received from you a few years ago, as very amusing & enjoyable little books about Owen Crimmins (or anyway a fine yarn spinner) up in the fishing country of the Maine and New Hampshire border. I never thanked you directly. - God bless you now.
Yours sincerely,
L. R. Wheeler

September 19, 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

I want to write you in behalf of the Clerical Staff Organization assuring you that you and your family have the affectionate sympathy and prayer from us individually and as an Organization. The Clerical Staff Organization "stands behind you" and yours in this sorrowful experience as it does in the service of the Board.

Let me add that my personal thought and prayer are with you and Mrs. Speer and your family. When I think of your son, this thought is before me: "greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

Most sincerely,

Lana Wilcox

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THE FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE CITY OF NEW YORK

FOUNDED 1716

OLD FIRST, UNIVERSITY PLACE AND MADISON SQUARE FOUNDATION

NEW YORK,

9/17/34

Dear Dr. Speer:-

Our hearts go out to you & Mrs. Speer in the sad tragedy which has come to you. It is so inexplicable & baffling that one can't help feeling Elliott was the victim of a fatal blunder.

Since both Elliott & his wife ^{are} held in close affection by many in our Church, the sorrow is general & very real.

Please be assured of our friendliest thoughts and deepest sympathy.

Faithfully,

Roger H. Williams.

ack: WWS
Oct 15.

ELIZABETH WILSON

813 EAST FRANKLIN STREET

APPLETON, WISCONSIN

October 14-34

My precious Friend

When the news first came from Northfield I did not add one more letter to the thousands that must have reached you and Dr. Speer. This eve I was preparing for a Board Council at Green Bay. Having chosen the topic "Leaders or Leaders?" your letter came in from Mr. Hermon. I ran to my files and got out your Easter message and showed that with a part of your letter with these women. They saw instantly how you had in the preceding years built up a faith in God that cannot be shaken. Last Friday a cousin of mine who never goes to church was

with me between a California and a Michigan
library position. In suggesting what the new
work might mean if she again identified
herself with a worshipping congregation. I
dared to tell of your experience and tears
stood in her lovely brown eyes as she
got the message of what a Christian philosophy
of life could do in emergency when long
years had gone into its development

Bless you both and all.

With deep affection

S. W. Wilson

Tomorrow I shall go to the funeral of the 10 year
old Horace Mann schoolboy, who was digging
a grave under the Riverside Drive embankment
Friday, when a rock fell in and buried him there.
His father is a Professor in Teachers' College, Dr. Ketterer.
but Dexter's mother is an Appleton girl

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Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

September 25, 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Lakeville,
Connecticut.

Dear Dr. Speer:

At the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Board of National Missions reference was made to the tragic death of Elliott and it was voted that the Board express its deep sympathy to you. Following this action the Board was led in prayer by the Rev. T. Guthrie Speers, who in a beautiful prayer thanked God for Elliott's service and prayed that divine consolation might be yours.

Assuring you of the esteem of our Board and of our sympathy in your sorrow, I am

Sincerely yours,



THE BIBLICAL SEMINARY IN NEW YORK
235 EAST 49TH STREET
NEW YORK, N. Y.

WILBERT W. WHITE
PRESIDENT

Dear Dr. & Mrs. Speer & family:

I think at once
of Mr. Moody's verse -
1 John 2:17 - "The world
passeth away - - -
but he that doeth the
will of God abideth forever."

I greet you as
those who have laid up
treasure in the unseen
& eternal.

God bless & comfort you
in this deep sorrow.

Be assured of the

was met sympathy
of the White family.

We know what it
means & whence
strength comes.

Affectionately yours

Robert W. White.

September 15th

1934

573

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF RELIGION
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

OFFICE OF THE DEAN

Sep. 16, 1934.

My dear Friend and Brother
With the news before me of the terrible, the incredible blow which has fallen on you, I can do no less than hasten to send you this line of sympathy. With three sons of my own, every one of whom has at one time or another ~~been~~ been in imminent peril of violent death, I trust I can enter somewhat into your sorrow. Please believe that you are much in my thought and prayers.

Sincerely yours,
G. D. Winton.

Dr. Robert C. Spear,
New York City.

574

Board of National Missions
of the Presbyterian Church in the
United States of America

156 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y.

September 19, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I thank you for your note of the 18th expressing your appreciation of the message which we sent you. We wish we could have done more, but it seemed as though there was little that we could do.

As you no doubt know, the staffs of the two Boards gathered on Saturday and prayed that God might be your refuge and your strength.

It surely is a "strange" experience. We cannot understand why it should happen, or what it all means, but some day we shall see not through a glass darkly, but face to face. Until that time God will give you strength to carry on as He has in the days that have passed.

With deep affection, I am

Sincerely yours,



E. Graham Wilson.

To-
Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Rockledge,
Lakeville,
Connecticut.

613

Community Center, Settlement House AND Training School

Initiated by the

West 44th Street United Presbyterian Church

432 WEST 44th STREET, NEW YORK

LOngacre 5-8549

J. CAMPBELL WHITE, M. A., LL. D.,

Minister

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REV. MALCOLM JAMES MacLEOD, D. D.

Sept. 17, 1934.

Dear Friends,
our hearts and prayers have been going out for you ever since we heard of this tragic occurrence. Our whole congregation was in prayer for you at the public service yesterday. May the grace and comfort of Christ be yours in fullest measure, and with the whole intimate family group.

In spite of all that is shocking about it, - the fact still stands out that "death is gain" to believers in Christ. To be absent from the body and present with the Lord, is very

far better. May your faith be strong in Him who "abolished death", and said that believers in Him should "never die".

The leaflets I enclose I have recently prepared - as I have been thinking much about the fuller life awaiting all lovers of Christ. May He enable you to be more than conquerors even in this most difficult experience.

Ever affectionately Yours
J. Campbell White

613

First Presbyterian Church
Sharon, Pennsylvania

WILLIAM L. WISHART, MINISTER

October 4, 1934

Robert E. Speer, D. D.,
156 Fifth Ave.,
New York, New York

Dear Doctor Speer:-

Remembering your services in the past to the congregation, and your Christian leadership in the present, the First Church of Sharon assembled for public worship, September 16, offered united prayer for you and your loved ones. This act arose spontaneously out of the report of your great loss, and was repeated on succeeding Sabbaths.

Sincerely yours,

William L. Wishart

WLW:CEC

513
CHARLES FREDERICK WISHART
THE COLLEGE OF WOOSTER
WOOSTER, OHIO

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

October 11, 1934.

Dear Robert:

I haven't written you, but have been thinking much of you through these days. Words seem so futile. All I can say is that Mrs. Wishart and I have been thinking often of you and Mrs. Speer and praying for you.

I think you have almost more love than any human I know and my prayer is that this human love may bear you up to that realization of the Divine Love which is our only shelter in the time of storm.

Don't trouble to answer this. It is just a handclasp across the spaces.

Affectionately yours,

Charles. Ashaw

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Board of Foreign Missions,
Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A.,
156 Fifth Avenue, New York City.

613

Bethany Presbyterian Church

420 East 137th Street

New York City

REV. DAVID R. WYLIE, D. D., PASTOR

666 WEST END AVENUE

SCHUYLER 4-6860

September 17th 1934.

Dear Dr Speer:

Our hearts are touched by the sudden bereavement.
You have comforted many in times of sorrow. May God comfort
you.

Accept my heartfelt sympathy and prayers that
the great Shepherd may lead you "beside the still waters."

In the shadows you will be sustained by the
thought that we will see him in the morning.

Affectionately your friend,

David R. Wylie.

Rooster Ohio, Sept 15/34

My dear Friend -

I can not tell you how our hearts go out to you ^{all} this hour of sorrow. The news of Elliotts tragic death has deeply saddened many Rooster friends of yours and of his. The session of the College Church met today and you were especially remembered. They asked me to convey to you their deep sympathy and tenderest love.

We are too sad and stunned to write anything. Mrs Richard and

I would again assure you of our esteem, sympathy and abiding love

John Richard

MS

WELSH SYNOD OF PENNSYLVANIA

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN THE U. S. A.

REV. O. R. WILLIAMS

SEATED CLERK

5642 Whittly Ave.

Philadelphia Pa

Septembe 19.th 1934.

Dr. Robert E. Speer. D.D.
156 Fifth Ave. New York.

Dear Doctor Speer.

May I be allowed to express to you
the profound sympathy of the above Synod.
in your great sorrow.

The Christian fellowship the world over was
shocked to learn of the tragic death of
your son, Dr. Elliot Speer. Our prayer is
that you and your dear family may be
sustained in this hour of darkness and
loss. In this expression of sympathy my
congregation here in the Welsh Church of
Philadelphia together with Mrs. Williams
& myself would join.

Yours very sincerely

O. R. Williams

First Welsh Presbyterian Church

Philadelphia, Pa

618

CHARLES WADSWORTH
120 SOUTH LA SALLE STREET
CHICAGO

September 19th
1934

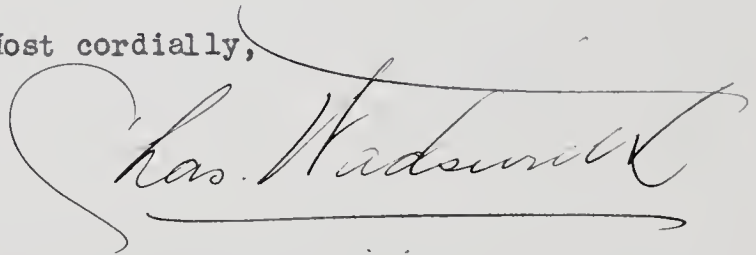
My dear Mr. Speer -

I am deeply shocked to learn of your great loss and write to extend my deepest sympathies.

I regret I am not closer to you so I could be of some assistance.

In sincerity, believe me

Most cordially,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Chas. Wadsworth". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Most cordially,". The signature is enclosed in a simple, elegant flourish that starts under the first word and ends under the last word.

Mr. Robert E. Speer
c/o Presbyterian Foreign Mission
New York City, New York

October 13, 1934

Mr Henry H. Welles, III.,
75 Avenue Petain
Shanghai, China

My dear Henry:

Your letter of September 17th was the first letter that has come from China since our tragedy and it will be some days yet before we can hear from Marnie. The cablegrams, of course, from you and Jo and from her, from Mr. Lobenstine and Mrs. Beebe, from the China Council and from Rex Wheeler and from the Paoting-fu station, all came sometime ago with their assurances of loving sympathy and prayer.

I sent you a copy of a letter which I wrote at once to Marnie and Patty. That letter was an error in some respects as it became clear later that Elliott had not been shot in the breast as he looked out of the window but in the back as he had risen from his chair and turned to take a book from the shelf behind him. The full charge from the gun had struck him some one-half dozen shot in his right arm; another shot through the heart and a heavy slug, which had been the deadliest missile and which had torn through the right chest, severing some of the main blood vessels in the lungs. The blow must have been so shattering that he felt no pain and was not aware of what had happened: Indeed, when your father hurried in and asked what had happened, Elliott's reply was "I don't know."

The mystery is still unsolved but the state is doing everything in its power to discover the perpetrator and some of the ablest private detectives are at work also.

There have been suspicions, of course, but they have looked in directions that seemed incredible and thus far nothing has been definitely proved. Sooner or later surely the mystery will be solved, but I hope that it may be in ways that will not work injury to the School or the cause of Northfield.

As you will have heard Holly and your father and mother and Eleanor and Margot stayed at Mount Heman until Wednesday, October 3rd. The strain was really too great there, however, and they wisely came back to New York and are all at the Croyden. Eleanor and Margot have started in at the Spence School, which is not far away from the Croyden, and Caroline is in the school at Greenwich, living with Kay. It is possible that she may come in to join the others in the Spence School after the first semester, or it may be better for her to complete the year in Greenwich.

Mr. Henry H. Welles, III.

- 2 -

October 13, 1934

There will be a Memorial Service at the School on Sunday, November 11th, and I began early this morning the preparation of the Memorial address. I have a great wealth of material which of course cannot be used in a brief address but which I hope to compile in a full biography for the sake of the children - Holly's and yours and Kay's and Patty's.

With a great deal of love to you and Jo,

Ever affectionately yours,

RES:B

Enclosed please find a letter to Mr. Welles

Minute adopted by the Board on September 17, 1934.

- - - - -

The Board responds in personal grief to the sorrow that has befallen its beloved Senior Secretary in the tragic death of his son, the Rev. Elliott Speer, on September 14th. It assures Dr. and Mrs. Speer of its fellowship with them in this difficult hour, commending them to that grace of God to which their long Christian service has accustomed them and which will not now fail them. All the members of the Board would rejoice to find some effective method of manifesting their love and sympathy both to the dear friends in America, to the daughter in China, so closely related to the Board, and to the daughter in England. We have shared in the family's pride in the son and his Christian character and service and we share therefore in the sorrow of this early transfer from his important earthly work to other service, even though we know him to be in safer and wiser hands than ours. Our faith in an overruling love of God and our assurance of His wider purposes which take up into themselves even the wrongs that men do and suffer can alone make this unexplained and ruinous tragedy endurable. Our thoughts include the great force of missionaries from all Churches who will be touched and solemnized by knowledge of the deep valley through which this household, so beloved among them, must go and we join their petition for comfort and peace. The President is requested to convey our expression of affectionate remembrance to Dr. and Mrs. Speer and also to extend to Mrs. Elliott Speer its profound sympathy in this sudden bereavement,

The Board desires Dr. Speer to extend his vacation so long as it may seem to him wise in order to secure adequate rest for his service during the coming year and also to minister in any way to the comfort of those who may especially need his care.

014

BOARD OF ELDERS

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The First Presbyterian Church

REV. GILL IRWIN WILSON, D. D., Pastor

Parkersburg, West Virginia

Sept. 21, 1934

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Robert E. Speer, D.D.
156 Fifth Ave.
New York City,
N.Y.

My Dear Dr. Speer:

It is impossible to convey to you in words the deep sympathy of our hearts to you in the great sorrow that has come to you in the death of your son. When a cablegram came from France during the World War telling us of the death of son, we felt at first as if the ~~burden was too great~~ but the God of all grace sustained our hearts.

Our sincere prayer is, That you too may be kept by that same grace in this deep sorrow that has come to you all.

As the tears come to you eyes again and again may rays that come from above shining thru them cast for the eyes of your soul the Bow of Promise with all its hope and beauty.

We shall bear you to the Throne in our churches, and remember you in our private prayers.

Sincerely.

*Respectfully,
Gill I. Wilson*

513

Robert Lee Sawyer, B. D., President

Presbyterian College of Christian Education

Department of Church Administration

William F. Weir, D. D., LL. D.,

Head of the Department

Telephone Diversey 1603

Oct. 6/34

815 Belden Avenue
Chicago, Illinois

My dear Dr. Speer:

I can find no words to express my deep sorrow and sympathy in your sore and so unexpected a bereavement. I wish you could know how much we care - how John will suffer with you.

God is never surprised nor unprepared and even this will be used by you for a high end.

God will be sufficient and necessarily even more to you.

Most sincerely
William F. Weir

618

STUDENT VOLUNTEER MOVEMENT

ORGANIZED 1888 — INCORPORATED 1900

254 FOURTH AVENUE, NEW YORK, N. Y.

JESSE R. WILSON, *General Secretary*

RAYMOND P. CURRIER, *Educational Secretary*

JAMES M. SPEERS, *Treasurer*

September 24, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer -

Louise and I have had you and Mrs. Speer
often in our hearts and minds during recent
days. How glad we have been that
you both know Christ is the power
of His resurrection!

Sincerely,

Jesse R. Wilson



RALPH P. FOLSOM, M. D.
SUPERINTENDENT

State of New York
Department of Mental Hygiene

770

HUDSON RIVER STATE HOSPITAL

Poughkeepsie, N. Y.

Sunday
February 17.

Dear Doctor Spear:

It is always
a joy - yes a spiritual expec-
ience - to see or hear you. To
this I look forward tonight
- but knowing there will be no
time for me to write. I hear
occasionally from Wm. Cairns
also from Principal Sir
George Adam Smith in Aber-
deen or Edinburgh.

These have been terrible years
of suffering and hardship.
I fear the iron has entered
your own soul also. I
was in Canada when Wm.
Eliot was killed. - Through
it all God's favor is sufficient
for us "for only where there is weak-
ness is perfect strength develop-
ed."

Syracuse University was obliged
to dismiss its full-time college stu-
dents with the financial crash and
am doing psychiatric work in his hos-
pital. Warmest regards to you
Mrs. Spear. From Sarah Parker White

VISITING DAYS ARE WEDNESDAYS AND SUNDAYS ONLY, FROM 10 A. M. TO 4 P. M. IN WRITING ALWAYS GIVE YOUR FULL NAME AND ADDRESS
AND CALL ATTENTION TO ANY CHANGE OF ADDRESS. ALWAYS GIVE FULL AND CORRECT NAME OF PATIENT ABOUT WHOM YOU ARE WRITING.

507

Cornwall Cove

My dear Grand Mrs Peer

I have wanted to write and express the heartfelt sympathy of my sisters and myself for the terrible sorrow that has come to you both!

I have delayed doing so, as I did not want to intrude in so sudden and excruciating a sorrow.

My oldest sister Mary

I know you are receiving many
hundreds, people so beloved as
you are! With heartfelt sympathy
in which Dr Woolsey joins me -
Affectionately yours
Jean Ellinwood Woolsey

Sept-28ⁿ -

is very seriously ill, and
can not write; but sends
her loving sympathy as
does my sister Madge.
Words are powerless at
such a time, but please
know that our hearts
ache for you all, and
for the young wife and
children -

Do not acknowledge
this note please, as

67

Clarksville, Arkansas,
September 16, 1934.

Dear Friends:

The morning paper has just told me of your great bereavement and my heart rushes out to you in love and sympathy.

Many sincere hearts are aching to be of some service to you and mine longs to comfort and to help, so I am earnestly praying for you and

for the others who suffer
in this, near or far away.
May our Comforter be very
near to you all and may
you be very conscious of
His help and sustaining
love in this loss which
is so impossible to under-
stand.

In the presence of such
a sacrifice the lips and
pen of a friend cannot
but be dumb; please feel
what my heart would say.

Yours in loving sympathy,
Isabella Mac Ward.

67

Duncannon, Penma.
Sept 21, 1924

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer.

I want to send to you
my deep and tenderest sympathy.

My sister and I think constantly
of you and your family in this great
sorrow, and our hearts go out to
Margaret in far away China.

I would have written sooner, but
I had the misfortune to break my
right elbow. My sister would gladly
have written for us but I feel that I
wanted to send this message. I never for-
get your messages of comfort to me
and I now pray that God may

comfort and help you in these
sad days.

My sister joins me in loving sym-
pathy and adds "my heart aches
for you."

Faithfully yours,
Anna B. West.

87

Mendham, N.J., September 20, 1934

Our dear friends Dr. and Mrs. Speer

Returning from a few days' absence my daughter Helen has shown me the papers. Accept our most profound sympathy, and shocked sorrow in your loss.

With every prayer for you and with great affection

Laura A. C. Waddell

(Mrs. H. A.)

With deepest
sympathy.
Mrs. Hubert Williams

Adm.

Lakeville
Connecticut

My loving sympathy
goes out to you

Miss Margaret Holley Williams
in your deep
sorrow -

Lakewood
Connecticut

aka
app

Cynthia?

Dear Emma:

It is when we face
realizations that we most
need our friends. At
first we are stunned,
are using all our strength
for calmness and a
grip on shocked nerves.
The truest sympathy
doesn't make much im-
pression.

I have purposely
waited to tell you and
Dr. Spear of our sorrow
for this terrible grief that
has come to you.

Only those who have
met Ruddle, stark tragedy

Love letters and longuies. These days of readjustment and acquired acceptance must be hard. Yet - you have much of comfort for your tortured parent hearts:

In this stressful age of changing traditions to have had a son like Elliot will keep you proud and happy until you meet him again. Few live so short a time and accomplish so much. His brilliance, his executive ness, his understanding have left their mark on many lives. Best of all, he never failed those who loved and trusted him. Such memories are value to the deepest wound.

I haven't met Holly and the children, but always I hear how lovely they are, and of the marvelous courage of Holly through these devastating hours. Will you give her and the dear little daughters our heart felt sympathy.

It may help in your struggle for value to know how you have impressed your lives: Eliza wrote me once

Can really understand
the crushing weight of
it. The inevitable we
can face, though our
hearts bleed; the needless
takes all our faith and
courage.

None knows this
better than we. Even
after two years the heart-
break of little Cynthia's
going is never utterly
out of our minds. Ap-
parently life goes on
as usual but the pang
is there.

Even a beautiful, strong
faith like yours cannot
overcome the human

Eagles Mere, " Aunt
 Eliza both had a letter
 from Martha yesterday
 saying she had never
 seen anything more
 beautiful nor courageous
 than the family at
 Northfield; that she
 wished all skeptics and
 unbelievers could have
 been there to see the
 beauty and power and
 strength of religion
 that is real. "

My love and
 affection to you, Dr. Spear
 and the children, in

While Anne joins
How mother would have
grieved for you; and
you are mother! Those
happy years seem very
far away.

I shall write to Marie.
This must be very sad
for her. The distance
where she ^{is} be near
you to comforted and
be comforted, must seem
very great.

Sincerely yours
Helen Bruce Wallace

October 2, 1934
203 Pine Street
Harrisburg.

note.

Oct 7 - 1934

WOMEN'S CITY CLUB OF BOSTON
FORTY BEACON STREET

Dear Mrs. Speer:

It was only
last Sunday, in
Dr. Kuroshige's sermon,
that I learned of your
Sis' tragic death - I
have been out of touch
with papers & it was
only after Dr. Kuroshige's
moving tribute to his
friendship with Eliot Speer
that I learned what
had happened -

Before such terrible
things, words are useless.
Only I just feel I must
send you my deep
sympathy & my
thoughts have been
much with you all

this week -

I had intended
when I came to New York
later on to call & see you
I may winter in Palestine
Perhaps you will not mind
my doing so -

I have prayed &
will pray for your
continued courage in
this hard hour -

Ever sincerely

Agnes M. Winter

27

106 Douglas Place,
Mount Vernon, N.Y., Sept. 16, 1934.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer,
Lakeville, Conn.

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,-

The brief item in yesterday's
"Times" of Elliott's cruel death shocked us greatly,
and the longer report in today's paper has not
relieved us much. In times of such experience,
the uselessness of words is realized. But we
remember you and Elliott's family in our prayers.

"God sends the darkness that we may
learn to trust Him... We cannot trust Him
too much."

"God nothing does or suffers to be done
But thou wouldst do thyself, couldst thou but see
The end of all events as well as He."

I have been reading again some of Forbes Robinson's
letters, and these quotations are from him.

The love of God and His power and wisdom,-

these are the verities on which we must
continue to build our lives.

Mrs. Warnshuis joins me in sending
this note to assure you of our sympathy.

Yours most sincerely,

A. L. Warnshuis

007

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

Wilson College
Chambersburg, Pa.

September 17, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Board of Foreign Missions
156 Fifth Avenue, New York

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have seen with the deepest regret and sorrow the account of the tragic death of your son Eliot. I have personally had no acquaintance with him but have followed his career with great interest, especially because of his marriage to Charlotte Welles.

I know what hopes you had placed in him and I send you my great sympathy in so great a sorrow.

With warm regard,

Very truly yours,

E. D. Washfield

07

450 Clinton Avenue

Bklyn.

My dear Dr. Spurr

Were my dear Father in this world I know he would have been among the first to send you a message of tender sympathy at this time of your great trial.

So in his name as well as in my own I am sending the message to you and

Mrs. Speer hoping and praying that you
both may have God-given strength to
bear this overwhelming sorrow.

Yours most sincerely,
Helen Dr. Wells

September the eighteenth
Orion the thirty-four

57

Hobbs School
Lakeville, Conn.

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

We knew your son Elliott
only by reputation, but we
knew that reputation to be
beautiful. Please accept
our most profound sympathy.

in the sudden and terrible
sorrow that has come to you
and to your family.

Most sincerely yours,

Eleanor J. White.

September 15, 1934.

620

Mrs. Luther D. Wisbard

With Love and deepest
sympathy, and gratitude
for your ministry to the
world, binding up the
broken hearted and
giving beauty for ashes.

E. F. N.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR54 27=CG POTTSTOWN PENN SEP 16 1042A

ROBERT E SPEER=

M THERMON SCHOOL M THERMON MASS=

OUR HEARTS ARE TOO FULL TO EXPRESS OUR SORROW OVER ELLIOTS
TRAGIC DEATH MARNIE JOINS ME IN SINCEREST EXPRESSION OF
SYMPATHY TO YOU ALL ON THIS DAY:

=JIM WENDELL.

1152A

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

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 Ship Radiogram

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Received at

GR32 27=MS NEWYORK NY SEP 15 927A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=
 MOUNTHERMON MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

SECRETARIES OF BOARD OF NATIONAL MISSIONS SEND TO YOU AND MRS
 SPEER THEIR DEEP SYMPATHY IN YOUR SORROW STOP WE WILL NOT
 CEASE TO PRAY FOR YOU=

E GRAHAM WILSON.

1002A

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This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR32 11 NM 3 EXTRA=MILWAUKEE WIS VIA DLY NEWYORK NY SEP 15

-DR ROBERT E SPEER=CARE MRS ELLIOTT SPEER

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

M-THERMON MASS=

-TERRIBLY SHOCKED BY THE NEWS SEND SINCEREST SYMPATHY=

-FREDERICK N WILLSON.

.806A

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter

NM = Night Message

NL = Night Letter

LC = Deferred Cable

NLT = Cable Night Letter

Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

GR128 10=ATLANTICCITY NJ SEP 15 459P

ROBERT E SPEER=

EASTNORTHFIELD MASS=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE

DAY LETTER

IN DEEPEST SYMPATHY AND WITH CONSTANT PRAYER FOR YOU ALL=

CHARLES R WATSON.

417P.

BY DIRECT WIRE FROM

WESTERN UNION

CLASS OF SERVICE

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SIGNS

- DL = Day Letter
- NM = Night Message
- NL = Night Letter
- LCO = Deferred Cable
- NLT = Cable Letter
- WLT = Week-End Letter

NEWCOMB CARLTON, PRESIDENT

J. C. WILLEVER, FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

NBK8 10=MS NEWYORK NY SEP 15 843A

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

LAKEVILLE CONN=

HEARTFELT SYMPATHY AND SORROW FOR YOU AND MRS SPEER TODAY=

WARREN AND PAULINE WILSON.

905A

TELEPHONE No. *282* ✓

TELEPHONED TO *Mrs Thomas Wagner*

TIME *9:27a*

BY *J* TO BE *file*

By 907a

RELEVANT

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
 NM = Night Message
 NL = Night Letter
 LC = Deferred Cable
 NLT = Cable Night Letter
 Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

NBK79 40 5 EXTRA NL=NEWARK NJ 16 VIA MTHEMOM MASS 17

DR ROBERT E SPEER=

ROCKLEDGE LAKEVILLE CONN=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

THE OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE ROSEVILLE AVENUE CHURCH
 JOIN ME IN ASSURANCE OF OUR DEEPEST SYMPATHY FOR YOURSELF
 AND FAMILY IN YOUR GREAT SORROW STOP YOU WERE REMEMBERED
 VERY TENDERLY IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY=

WALTER L WHALLON.

329P.

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

NBL64 18 6 EXTRA=AU AUBU RNDALE MASS VIA MTHERMON MASS SEP
 DR AND MRS ROBERT E SPEER AND MISS WELLES= 17
 ROCKLEDGE LAKEVILLE CONN=

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

MY HEART IS WITH YOU AND YOURS IN LOVE AND PRAYER TODAY=
 LILLIAN C WILLIAMS.

(406P.)

CLASS OF SERVICE

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WESTERN UNION (19).

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

AUA262 8 NM=MILWAUKEE WIS 15

1934 SEP 15 PM 7 22

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

DR ROBERT E SPEER =

PRESBYTERIAN ROOMS 156 FIFTH AVE NYK =

TERRIBLY SHOCKED BY THE NEWS SEND SINCEREST SYMPATHY =

FREDERICK N WILLSON.

R. E. Speer

SEP 17 1934

COPY TO METHERMON MASS

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

(24)

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

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Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at

1934 SEP 16 PM 11 28

CC584 46 NL=TDVW LAKEFOREST ILL 16

MINUTES IN TRANSIT	
FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

R E SPEER=

156 FIFTH AVE NYK=

THIS EVENING READ ACCOUNT ELLIOTTS DEATH BY HAND OF ASSASIN
 STOP TOO STUNNED TO EXPRESS GRIEF AT BLOW YOU HAVE SUFFERED
 STOP I KNOW YOU AND MRS SPEER WILL MEET SITUATION WITH
 UNBREAKABLE FAITH IN THE FATHER WITHOUT WHOSE NOTICE NOT A
 SPARROW FALLS TO GROUND=

WILL WALLACE.

Mr. J. G. Watson

15

Nov. 25 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:-

It was only yesterday in looking over the Sept. number of the Advance that I realized it was your son whose life ended so tragically at Northfield by an assassin's bullet. It seemed a terrible thing when I read in Sept. local papers of this crime and when I knew it was your son dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer my heart went out to you in deepest sympathy. I would gladly

offer words of comfort - but
it is so little one can say
and the Masters message
"Well done good and
faithful servant," must
bring greatest peace to
your hearts.

Sincerely your friend

Mrs. J. G. Watson.

ack apps Oct 1911

MOUNT KISCO
NEW YORK

Dearest Emma -

My heart goes out to you in very deepest sympathy in your great sorrow. Your loss is irreparable!

Elliot was such a fine character, with such high ideals that would inspire others to do great things. His influence was being felt among the youth of this country, upon whom even at his age, he had left an impression.

Only one who has also had to fix
up a dear one, can in any way
understand what you are going
through now. The personal loss
is so overwhelming - it is so
difficult to go on living without
their dear companionship.

You and I know that through
constant prayer and meditation
we find strength. God will
give you that comfort now, my
dear old friend, and Christ's
words - "I am with you always".

If anyone was ever needed
on this plane of existence
it was he and it is im-
possible to be reconciled
to his going.

I cannot think of the
loneliness which his sweet
wife and you and Dr. Spear
and his children will
always feel, without tears.
But I know you will bear
it with true Christian
spirit, as you realize
the peace, the glory
and the useful life
which is his now.

as well as - "Be not dismayed
I too have overcome the world." -
have saved me from a
total collapse.

Will you please give my
gincerest sympathy to
Dr. Spear.

Fifield regrets the loss of
his old friend and wishes
to join me in all the
messages I have sent.

Affectionately yours
Belle Fifield Norton

September 29.

57

RAYMOND C. WALKER, MINISTER
THE MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Sunday Afternoon,
Sept. 6-1934,

Dear Dr. and Mrs Spear -

Mrs. Walker and

I extend to you our sincere sympathy and assure you your prayers for you help us for pass through this great sorrow.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; who comforteth us in all our affliction, that we may make to comfort them that are in any affliction, through the comfort wherewith ourselves are comforted of God."

Very sincerely yours,
Raymond C Walker
Dr. & Mrs Robert E. Spear
New York

copy. Oct. 17.
1949.

BIRCHWOOD
SAUGATUCK, CONN. -
TEL. WESTPORT 3155

Dear Mrs Speer,

It seems like an intrusion
on your grief here to tell you
of the deep and constant
sympathy with which we
think of you and your husband
in this terrible shock which
has come to you. But Roger
and I do want to assure you
~~that~~ our hearts are aching
for you, and to add our
love and prayers to those
of your multitude of

friends all over the world
With sincere affection
Ever faithfully yours
Russell. Williams

57

My dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:-

The morning paper has just brought the news of the terrible shock and grief that have come to you and all members of your dear family-

In such a sorrow as this, it is, I realize, one's nearest and dearest friends only, who should even attempt words of consolation- but

I do want to send just these few lines to assure you of the loving sympathy that goes out to you from the depth of my heart.

Words seem so utterly meaningless at such a time, and I wish there was something I could do to help and comfort you. The perfect-yea the buoyant Christian faith and trust that are yours in such abundance, are, I know, helping you now, as nothing else can. God grant that this faith, and the love and prayers of your dear ones, and hosts of friends, may help to make the heavy heartache easier to bear.

With affectionate sympathy,
Cordially yours,
Mabel W. Waters.

114 Merriman Street.
Brooklyn - N. Y.
September seventeenth.

67

The University Club
1 West 54th Street

Sept. 24, 1934

My dear Robert

I want to Express
to you our deep
sympathy in
your great loss.

I know that
you do not
rejoice as do
those who have
no hope and
that the comfort
it is come to
you.

Please convey

to Mrs. Speed and
to all the members
of your family
our most sin-
cere sympathy -
as ever.

Faithfully yours

J. E. Speer

Dr. Robert E. Speed

156 Fifth Ave.

New York City.

131 E 39th St

516

THOMAS W. HOTCHKISS
118 PINE STREET
PEEKSKILL, N. Y.
TEL. 1452

Sept. 18 - 1934

Dear "Bobby" Speer }
and Mrs. Speer } ———

Our profoundest sympathy goes out to you both in the great loss you have suffered, and in the tragic death your son suffered.

The mystery of his murder will be solved. The motive must have been trumped up in the crazy brain of the murderer, but it will be traced and discovered, I feel sure; although at present it appears to have no parallel

in the annals of crime.

Our best wishes to you
both,

Sincerely,

Tom and Amy Hotchkiss.

ask
apts
out 17

My

Dear Doctor and Mrs. Speer

Although words are so
useless, in your tragic ex-
perience, of the past few weeks,
I wanted you to know, that
I have been thinking of you,
and praying for you.

Opening my Bible for special
help, for you, The Book, open-
ed at the first chapter of
Job - I read on and on, som-

With a heart full of sympathy.

Very sincerely yours
Carnie Peiss.

September 24.

raising your eyes - and
asking "that your hands be
upheld"; that you be given
abundant strength for this
awful need; that "the Sun
of righteousness shall arise
with healing in his wings";
and that Isaiah forty-one
Ten may may sustain and
comfort you.

57

2642 Van Buren Pl.
Los Angeles
Sep. 16, 1934

Dear Dr. Speer:-

The distressing news of your son's tragic death has just come to us. The Associated Press dispatch published in our paper gave us only the most meagre details but enough to let us know that some terrible and mysterious crime had brought to a close the beautiful and useful career of the brilliant and noble son of whom you and Mrs. Speer were so justly proud and for whom you entertain such deep and abiding affection.

Mrs. Walker and I wish to express to you both our sincerest and most affectionate sympathy. Myriads of friends all around the world will be sorrowing with you and sending you assurances.

of their love. And you will be remembered at the Throne of Grace by a multitude in every land where Christ has been proclaimed as the Saviour of mankind. And the untimely loss of your distinguished son will be mourned by all who had known of his wonderful work in redeeming the lives of the youth of our own beloved land.

How will we know that you and your dear wife have found comfort and strength in Him - the only One who proves himself to be our present help in every time of trouble.

There is no man anywhere in the world whom I admire and love and admire and love you. My constant prayer will be that God may comfort and richly bless you and your dear ones in this dark hour.

With devoted love and tenderest sympathy.

As always your friend
Hugh K. Walker.

H. H. Weller
SHANGHAI AMERICAN SCHOOL

AVENUE PETAIN, SHANGHAI, CHINA

(personal)

~~Pier "Pres. Jackson"~~



Dr. & Mrs. Robert E. Spear

156 Fifth Avenue

New York City

U. S. A.

~~John Bull~~

~~Del. com. & by for at (hang) end.~~

~~Deliver in for (hang) end.~~

75 Avenue Pétain,
Shanghai.
Sept. 17, 1934.

Dear Mr. & Mrs. Spear,

Our first word of Elliott's death came 24 hours ago, and ever since our thoughts have been constantly with Holly & the children and all of the rest of you. This is but a few lines to say that. We feel very close to you, closer than ever before.

Elliott will live on with us. He doesn't seem far away at all now. I suppose that is natural, for he was always bringing people together in the circle of his warm friendliness.

I wired Marnie yesterday and received a reply a few hours later. Her heart goes out to you all.

This letter must be mailed immediately to catch today's boat. It carries the love of us all - Jo, Betty, Holly, Kay, and

Nancy

57

4114 Pine Street
Philadelphia

My dear Dr Speer

I want to express to you
my deep & heartfelt sympathy
for you & your family in
the cruel, wanton and un-
explicable tragedy which
has come to you

It is beyond words,

but please accept my
deepest sympathy.

Most sincerely yours
Elizabeth R Williamson
(of Brazil)

September 24
1934

With deepest sympathy

520

Mary W.

MRS. ~~HALSIE~~ LATHROP WOOD

35 EAST 37TH STREET

579
With sincere regards
and deepest sympathy

Mrs. Mary A. Warner

Southfield Point
Stamford, Connecticut

Go

MISS EDITH HAMILTON WHITE

344 WEST SEVENTY-SECOND STREET

With very great
sympathy in your
great bereavement

Edith H White

With many ^{our} thoughts
for you these past
Mr. and Mrs. Donald Judson Warner
days, thoughts of
the and understanding
Rosalie Warner

Salisbury, Connecticut

Mrs Charles Wood

618

APT. 82, THE CONNECTICUT
1150 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 16-

Dear D: ~~Dear~~.

With my ^{young} ~~young~~ ^{son's} ~~son's~~ failing mind, it was as much as ever he was able to carry out his intense desire. I send you the enclosed letter. It has taken him an hour-and-a-half to produce this; the first of three or four may have meantime what was so on his mind. I have given over it to try & make some of the words a little more legible.

He has no idea of his failing powers,
nor that either I, or his attendant,
had been here in sight every moment.
I merely add this little note that
you may know the situation.

With our deepest love and ad-
miration I am ever cordially yours

Alice C. Wood

(Mrs Charles Wood)

Dear Dr. Spear.

678

I am returning home yesterday from a five

APT. 82, THE CONNECTICUT

1150 CONNECTICUT AVENUE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

month's automobile tour with friends, our

most earnest desire is to tell you

of our very deep affection & sympathy for

you & Mrs. Spear in this heart-rendering

tragedy that has come so mysteriously

into your consecrated lives. You

unhappily find me when, at home

& abroad, on rooming with you at the

untimely cutting-off of that

glorious Christian Soldier eager

to battle ^{day & night} against the powers of

darkness, & give his life, some months,

to the cause he loved.

Sincerely & affectionately yours

Charles Wood.

67

The Lord's Day League of New England

INCORPORATED UNDER THE LAWS OF MASSACHUSETTS MAY 1895

DR. ROBERT WATSON, *General Secretary*

44 SCHOOL STREET, BOSTON Sept 18 1934

Dear Friends:-

We are praying for you and
weeping with you in this sad
dark hour.

Sunday morning. Will undertake
for our God lives and loves.

Sincerely

Robert Watson

017

SUITSME FARM
MANCHESTER, VERMONT

Sept. 19th 1934

My dear Dr. Miles Spear:-

No words of mine
can express the depth of my
sympathy for you in the tragic
death of your son. But I want
you to know that I am thinking
of you constantly.
With the affection of friends

can bring you help, I know
of none who will bear it in
fuller measure.

May you feel, as never before,
that the everlasting arms are
around you to sustain and
comfort you is my prayer.

Ever affectionately yours
Caroline D. Wadsworth.

017

September 16, 1934

My dear Friend:-

My heart
aches for you
and I must tell
you. Among all
my friends there
is no one whose
faith is more
strong and sure

But I know that
you are passing
through deep waters,
and my thoughts
were constantly
to you with
affectionate
sympathy.
Your friend,
Mary C. Holly

ack Oct. 17

APT. 82, THE CONNECTICUT
1150 CONNECTICUT AVENUE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

October 16.

Dear Mrs. Year.

Every one's heart is so full for
utterance, and now here am I, at
the eleventh hour, tearing up to tell
you of our love and of our mes-
saging sympathy; and how utterly
tiny & insignificant Dr. Wood and I
feel in the face of such unmeasured
and untoward developments in your
beautiful family, circle & in the whole

World wide circle, where the Spicer
name stands for every mortal thing
that is given & of good report.

Our love for you & D: Spicer reaches
back so far - & it touches us to
the very depths that real affliction
should have approached you in any
form whatever.

Again with real and lasting love
I am affectionately yours,

Wesley Cox Wood

Wm Charles Wood

402 WEST TWENTIETH STREET

Dear Speer.

May I assure you and Mrs. Speer of my deep and affectionate sympathy in the tragic loss that has brought you such grief.

I never had the privilege of knowing your son, but I remember what you

were at his age and
I am sure he must
have been like you.

May our Lord com-
fort you both and
give you courage to
go on.

Faithfully and affectionately
— John W. Wood

September 16. 1934

ack.

1021 PARK AVENUE

Very dear Dr & Mrs Speer,

To read of —
Elliot's tragic death
was a shock to me & I
have been thinking
of it ever since. For
you it must be
almost unbearable.
You have my most

sincere & heartfelt
sympathy in your
loss.

Most Sincerely,

Boell Wolf.

September 17-39

ack.
1893.
Oct 18

600 Lexington Ave -

For dear Mrs. Speer
with a heart-ful of
loving sympathy
and thoughts to
you all which
cannot be put
into words
from Jane Ward.

ack.

October 12, 1934.

My dear Mrs. Speer -

I have wanted to write you for several weeks, but I have not known what to say.

I had waited until I reached Wilmington to write you my appreciation of your courtesy to me in summer school, for I wanted to meet Mrs. Sprunt and tell you about her.

Mine is just one of
the innumerable lives you
have touched and blessed.
I know this is because you
strive always to practice
that Presence.

Please accept this expression
of my thought and feeling
for you. Faithfully yours,
Katharine Wilfley

Although I have not
given expression to my
thought of you and
Dr. Speer, during this
time when the way must
have taken you to Calvary,
I want you to know that
I have remembered you daily
in that "Fellowship" of those
who "practice the presence of God."

Ans
Q 10

POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE OF PORTO RICO

J. WILL HARRIS LL. D., PRESIDENT

SAN GERMAN

156 FIFTH AVENUE

P. R.

NEW YORK CITY

Sept 29-1934.

My dear Dr. Speer:-

I have just today heard of Elliot's going. My heart goes out in sympathy for you, his mother and his wife. May God grant you comfort in Him. He has not promised to explain but He has promised to comfort. We are all afflicted and suffer as Christian Brethren with you all.

Sincerely yours-

Will Harris

Dr. Robert E. Speer
New York City.

Address. Union Seminary N.Y.

Ans.

W

WILLIAM WALLACE
GOMEZ FARIAS 20
COYOACAN D. F. MEXICO

Oct-2nd-1934

My dear Roberts:

Ever since I sent you my
night letter on way from Chicago to my
winterquarters here in N.Y. not a day has
passed in which you have not stepped
into my thoughts -

I well remember the last time I saw
Elliott. It was at a lunch given to
missionaries in N.Y. - six years ago - when
you and Mrs. Spicer were present. I can
see him step in and bid his parents
goodbye as he left to take charge
of the Northfield Schools - He looked
so youthful in his plus-fours - I can
recognize by his last published likeness
how much he had matured in those

This does not require an acknowledgment.

years of active responsibilities - It makes
it all the harder to see him promoted
to higher services which means that he
will not have any leave of absence, and
that you and the rest of the family
must wait in patient but assured
hope until you and Mrs. Elliott and
those of us who know him "go to him
where he and the Master are" now together.

You know I can sympathize with
you and your wife even more understand-
ingly since Mr. Wallace left me so
suddenly & so tragically.

I have student quarters here
and have relapses most naturally
and stimulatingly into the students life
of fifty years ago. and hope to see
you and Mrs. Spier in the near future
to talk of the past and the future
face to face.

affely -

Will Wallace

Ann
G. 10

312 W. 77 Street,
New York City.
Sep. 29, 1934

My dear Robert:-

On landing the news about your son Elliott's death has reached us. My wife and I wish to send you and Mrs. Speer our deepest sympathy and love. What a mystery it is!

Do you know Whittier's words?
"What to us is dark, to Him is day;
And the end He knoweth.
And not on a blind and aimless way,
The Spirit goeth."

We are staying with our niece, Miss Wilder, at the above address. I hope to come to your office some day the latter part of next week to see you.

With kindest regards to Mrs. Speer and yourself

Yours affectionately
Robert P. Wilder

New York City.

Sept 15, 1934

My dear Dr and Mrs Speer^{and} family:

Mrs. Wonnacott and I want you to know of the deep sympathy we have for each of you and all, in this hour of sorrow now upon you.

There is little I can say that will mitigate your sorrow. I know how great is your faith and how blessed is your hope. This with the fellowship we

of the Christian faith have together,
turns a grief that may become
self pity to an enriched sorrow
near to the heart of God.

Our thoughts and
prayers are with and for you.

Yours in His Service,
Charles. N. Wonnacott

Dr. & Mrs Robert Speer and family
N.Y. City.

510

LADY LILLIAN WANLESS
1016 MATILJA ROAD
GLENDALE, CALIFORNIA

Sept. 26th, 1934.

R. E. Speer, D.D.,
156 Fifth Ave.
New York, N. Y.

My dear Dr. Speer;

Please accept
my heartfelt sympathy
in your bereavement.
"God is our refuge and
strength; a very present
help in time of trouble".

Yours very sincerely,
Lillian E. Wanless.

840

VICTORIA UNIVERSITY
TORONTO

Sept. 16. 1934

My dear Mr Speer

My wife and I wish to
express to you and Mrs Speer
our sincerest sympathy. We are
shocked at this tragic waste
of a life full of Christian
usefulness. Once again we stand
in silence before the fact of
sin, and its involvement of
the innocent and the good in

I know what a joy Elliott was to you both. One of my earliest remembrances of you is a story you told at a student gathering of him as a little lad. I have often thought of it since and have remembered it when I met or heard of him.

My wife and I have learned some of the deep lessons of life since I saw you last. Eighteen months ago I was suddenly obliged to undergo a very serious operation, which

its sad consequence. How it
brings us face to face with the
mystery of the Cross when we
whom we know and love is
called upon to fill up the
suffering of Christ. As you and
Mrs Speer are called upon now
to give of your best blood
for the sin of our age. may
you have the assurance that
in the providence of God
such suffering is part of his
age long redemptive agony for
mankind.

took me down to the gates of death,
and kept me in bed for nearly
eight months. I am nearly
restored to health, at least for
a time, and I am taking up
my work again this autumn.
We have learned what are the
things in life that matter
at such a time - love and
understanding and sympathy,
of our friends and of the Great Friend.
I know that you and Mrs. Speer
will have that in overflowing
measure.

Yours very sincerely
Edward Dr. Wallace

act.

135 East 52 St.

Tuesday -

Dear Mrs Speer, -

I realize how many
notes and messages you
have been receiving all
these weeks - but I want

you to know that I too,
am thinking of you and
your family. I have

refrained from writing
until now just to save
you opening another
envelope -

"How could we live without

His love -

How could we walk without

His light -

The beacon light of your
faith and courage is

indeed far-reaching
and an inspiration

to many, many folk whom
you do not even know -

May you and your
Family be given great
Strength to meet
these days —

Faithfully yours

Sarah C Wells

Oct 21-1834

ack.

near Buf. Oct. 12th 1934

My dear Mrs. Spier.

I just got news here of this very great sorrow, that has come to your family and that will be so very hard to bear and accept, also because of the way in which your son was taken from you. But just in these circumstances when it seems as if it is so entirely the hand of man that brings such unnecessary suffering, the knowledge that God reigns and leads our lives, must be a double strength. May

You and your family experience the
comforting presence of God is a very spe-
cial way in these dark days. Many will
be praying for you.

With the warmest expressions of
sympathy to your husband and yourself

Yours affectionately

Corry van Aschwendt

ack.

Hampden Sydney, Va.

Sept. 20. 1934.

Dear Mrs. Speer,

Surely you know
that my thought and prayer
is with you.

It all seems so impossible,
incredible! and I am tempted
to ask the eternal why?

So just because I feel such
questionings arising in
my mind I am praying
God to keep your faith

unwavering and your trust
unhesitating. And I know
that such peace of heart can
come only where there is no
bitterness or rebellion and so
I claim for you a marvellous
experience of Christ's indwelling.
May He Himself control
all your thinking and feel-
ing and so your living,
and make you a mighty
witness to His supernatural
power and grace.

Faithfully and lovingly,
Dorothea Day Watkins

adm,

MRS. RICHARD W. WESTBROOK
PONUS RIDGE
NEW CANAAN, CONN.

Sept. 17, 1934.

Dear Mr. Speer:—
I was dreadfully
shocked and grieved to learn
of the tragedy that has befallen
your family, of a beloved son
and heir of a devoted father
and mother. It is a crushing
blow to all your hope in bear-
ing and training a son who
would carry on the family
name and beautiful influence.
and now here no cause for
disappointment in him, only
a deep satisfaction and joy.
It surely was not God's will
only the act of a man—perhaps
or farmer to bear—because so

useless. To think that you and
your husband who have given
up your lives to the service
of humanity should be so cru-
elly treated by any man is
almost incredible and unweary.
My heart aches for you all and
I only wish one could do some-
thing to help or comfort in
and yours other than this ex-
pression of my deep and loving sym-
pathy. Doubtless your and your
husband's faith which has so
deeply influenced others will
find in it peace and strength
and a deep source of comfort
in the thought that our Heavenly
Father was doubtless ^{our} and greater
work for you you to do in
another part of his kingdom.
God bless and keep you in
perfect peace.
Affectionately
Albany Westbrook.

ack.

Juniper Point
West Boothbay Harbor
Maine

Dear Mrs. Speer:

Miss Colt and I
long to express to you
the depth of sympathy
we feel upon hearing
of the death of your
son. Such a grief
is unspeakable but

we know you have
great resources of
spiritual treasure
and comfort even
at such a time as
this. So we take
comfort in this with
you.

Faithfully yours

Celeste Webb.

Sept-

ack.

Harford.

Dear Mrs. Spens:

Though I am only one of a
countless number whose letters
are going out to you in these
days, I feel that I must add
just a little word to the volume
of loving sympathy that is
surrounding you and your family.

In Remembrance that you have the
only answer to the inscrutable
mystery of sorrow, and that
you are able to draw upon the

my source of strength and
comfort - Perhaps it keeps just
a little too to Rem of the
great host of friends who are
supporting you in their thoughts
and prayers -

Best wishes,

Frederic Coolidge

Fredy

64



Dear Dr. Spurr:-

All of these days I
have waited until I
should feel that I could
enter, even by a
line, into the sacred
midst of your tragic
sorrow.

Even now, there are
no words, though my
heart is full of
sympathy, and my
mind carries many
wishes & hopes & desires
for you & your dear
family.

When I thought, my
father, my love, my
dear, I have loved,
I have loved, I have
suffered that his
Anxiety has been
wounded in the
face of your life.
and my deep
grief I am to
you, for this day
and in your
heart, in
wonder, in loyalty
to God and His Son.
Truly, in your ability
to do this, all are
seeing how great
a God Father we
have.

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable sign above or preceding the address.

WESTERN UNION

R. B. WHITE
PRESIDENT

NEWCOMB CARLTON
CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD

J. C. WILLEVER
FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT

SIGNS

DL = Day Letter
NM = Night Message
NL = Night Letter
LC = Deferred Cable
NLT = Cable Night Letter
Ship Radiogram

The filing time as shown in the date line on full-rate telegrams and day letters, and the time of receipt at destination as shown on all messages, is STANDARD TIME.

Received at 19 Dean Street, Englewood, N. J.

NV54 VIA RCA=CD SOUTHPORT 12 SEP 17/1139

LC MR AND MRS ROBERT SPEER=
ENGLEWOOD (NJ)=

TENDER SYMPATHY=

LUCY JACKSON WOOD.

729A.

MINUTES IN TRANSIT

FULL-RATE	DAY LETTER

Tring Sympathy

Vol 14-1-16-5

579

Miss M. Ethel Misedell

512

Miss Florence H. Weiss
280 Monroe Street
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Sept. 17-1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer,

There are no words
in which to tell you how keenly
I sympathise with you at this
dreadful time. Not only your
loss, but the manner in which
it came, must be a great shock
and make all the harder your
bereavement.

When Elliot was at

Bethlehem it was my privilege to be closely associated with him and I have always prized that experience and our friendship as a result of working together. It will be many a long year before any of us will feel our sense of loss is healed or that anyone could take his place.

I hope peace and quiet and comfort from above many help to sustain you now.

Sympathetically yours.

Florence P. Weiss

201 North Main Street.
Pendleton, Indiana

7
MM

March thirteenth
1935.

Dear Doctor Speer:

The news of the great blow that fell on you and Mrs Speer only came to us a little while ago, when our son-in-law mentioned it. We had seen a very brief account in a paper but never associated it with you. Since coming out here on April first last year to the Chaplaincy of Indiana Reformatory, I do not hear our own church news discussed and so we were in ignorance.

God, who has put His touch upon you so often in your goings and comings in, held you in those sad and dark days in His strong and tender

hands, I know, and there is nothing like it in the hour of sorrow and trial. There is no word we can say to you now, or could have said then, save that our hearts were sore for you and we felt for you to Him who alone can comfort.

I know how you felt. We lost a lad once. He was poisoned thru the carelessness of a doctor we trusted. For weeks I could not understand. Then I was called back to the old parish for a funeral, and again was by the quiet place where we had laid his body. On the way home while walking between two depots in an Illinois town, the thought came like a flash "Your lad could not have gone without God's knowledge!" There was no argument, no reasoning about it. It fell like a great peace. From that

Day to this, and it's many a long year ago, there has never been a question! Somehow I know that when I come to the hills of that land beyond, my little lad grown to wandering manhood and wisdom, will lead me to Him who loved me and gave Himself for me, and He will let me understand.

With sincere sympathy for you and Mrs Spear in which Mrs White joins us.

Always yours,
H. C. White

ab

1 March 1935

329 HATHAWAY LANE
WYNNEWOOD, PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Mrs. Spear,

May I take this opportunity, actually to send you the message of constant affection, interest and sympathy which I have sent you in my thoughts a thousand times since I learned of your son's tragic death.

I have treasured every scrap of information about you which I have been able to get from our mutual friends, and have thus added to my already-large

belief in your vivid realization
of the power and indwelling of God.

You are one of the people, as my
father, long gone from earth, is an-
other, who fortify my soul.

I should be more glad than I can
say, if there were anything I could
do for you.

Affectionately yours,

Helen Foss Wood

MAR. 20 1885

Art

My dear Spurr,

It was only a few days ago that I learned of the great sorrow which has come to you, and I want to express my sympathy to you & yours.

Very sincerely yours,

Howard Wilcox

Uplands,

Victoria B.C. Mar. 19, '85

Pa. 86

Davis, as he faced the Cross,
seeing Him, who is invisible?
If you haven't already
seen it, you will find it
a precious testimony of faith.

With warm affection
and sorrow with you
Annie Rhea Wilson.

copy

MRS. V. HENRY WELLS
OAKWOOD HEIGHTS
STATEN ISLAND, N. Y.

My dear Mrs. Speer:

I was very very sorry to learn the sad news in regard to your son. I have a son of my own now, and I know how precious they are.

To one less fortified with spiritual power than you it would have been a crushing blow.

I have always treasured

my experience working with
you at the National Board.

To you and Miss Catty I attribute
my spiritual awakening. And
I have been very thankful
for the help it has been to me
the past four years.

With loving regard, I
am

Very sincerely yours,
Elsa Palmer Dills

September 24, 1934.

Amos
1874

September 27th 1934.

Dear Robert and Mrs Speer.

You have been very close to me
during these sorrowful days -
but I hesitated to write because
I knew you would be overwhelmed
with messages. I sent a telegram
which I hope reached you.

All ordinary words of comfort fail
me. In cases this blow did seem
so hopeless useless. I could not
be reconciled to it.

On August 12th I was at Northfield

for Dr. Matthews evening Service.

Elliott gave the Prayer, and his voice was so like his father. After the Service, I said I would like to speak to him. I was not sure he would remember me. But he came with such a radiant face, and we had a few words I said. Elliott. I was so touched by your Prayer. I feel I would like to write to your father he said in his cordial way "Oh do! Father would be so

glad to hear from you:- The next day
he called to Maculau's Rest. and
arranged for a visit by Dr + Mrs
Wells. and Dr and Mrs Arthur Brown
we had such a lovely visit with
them: I feel I have gone through
this sorrow with ease, as I might
not have done if I had not so
recently seen him in his splendid
young manhood.

Human sympathy does help -
although I cannot speak a word
that will help. I know you know
found the only way there is to
bear it.

ack.

Newtown, Conn.

September 19th 1934

My dear Mr. Spear

Only those of us
who know the love of a
great friend can feel
the depth of the experience
through which you and
Mrs. Spear are passing, at
this time. Wards

Cannot possibly express
what is in my heart, but
prayers are effectual, and
my confidence is, that the
earnest, continual suppli-
cations of your many
friends will bring comfort
& strength to you both.

Sincerely yours
Henrietta R. White
(Mrs. Stanley)

694

Lincoln, Nebr.

Oct. 15, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer

The Board of Foreign Missions

Dear Sir:

Mother and I were very sorry to hear of the tragic death of your son. We know how to sympathize with you as mother lost her ~~an~~ only son, my only brother, eight years ago. We heard about this only recently and

did not learn full details, but the manner of his death certainly seems cruel. I hope the party or parties responsible for this tragedy will speedily be brought to justice.

God will certainly punish him for this cruel wrong and his conscience surely will torture him.

I got on this FERA work for 50 hours a month and got a church loan for \$35. With the money I earn, \$15 a month, I'll probably be

able to go this year and may get at least a rural school in the sandhills next year.

Very sincerely yours,
Julia W. Hittaker

^{only}
My dear Mrs Spur

I could not
express to you what I feel
for you, I only hope some
of the help and strength
you have always given
others will in some way
return to you, and that
you will find some comfort
in your wonderful faith
and in your many
sincere and devoted friends.

Please do not answer this -
affectionately

Pachel Grassman

England

Sept. 9, 34

713

NORTHFIELD SEMINARY
FOUNDED BY D. L. MOODY
EAST NORTHFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

PRINCIPAL'S OFFICE

October 31, 1934

Dear Dr. and Mrs. Speer:

I am glad to hear that you can plan to be with me when you come to Northfield for the Memorial Service and Trustees' meeting. Please let the house be as useful to you as it can over those days.

I am enclosing the Minute read to our Seminary faculty at yesterday's meeting. All these things seem inadequate to us, but I am sure that you will appreciate the spirit behind them.

Cordially yours,

Mira B. Wilson

Dr. and Mrs. Robert E. Speer
24 Gramercy Park
New York City

acta.

My dear Mrs Spens:

When I returned today from Europe, I heard the news of your son's death. However, inadequate words of sympathy at such a time may be, I felt that I must write to let you know that I am thinking of you in your deep sadness.

Affectionately yours,
Wednesday Rich^d. F. Woodsmall

618

316 E 3rd St.

Dixon Ill. Sept-17th 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer:

I was greatly shocked Saturday in reading the evening paper, to learn of the grief that has come to you and yours, in the death of your splendid son. It all seems so impossible to understand. I just want to assure you of the very sincere sympathy of Mrs Young and myself.

I know there is nothing that one man can say to another under such circumstances that helps much, but it does help to know that there are those who care, and who are thinking of and praying for us. Be assured that we are doing these for you.

Most Cordially yours

J. Frank Young,

518

101 EAST MAHONING STREET
DANVILLE, PENNA.

Sunday

September 16th 1934

My dear Dr. Sauer:

It was with deep regret that I learned of the tragedy which has come to your family and I wish to express my sympathy in this your hour of sorrow and bereavement.

May God richly bless you and yours; and may His abiding Presence and His sustaining Grace be your refuge and comfort at this time. I am sure that I join with the countless host of your friends as I remember you and your family before the Throne of Grace in my early prayers. May the Lord bless you.

Very sincerely yours,

Edward Johnson

618

Idyle M Gates
 THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
 THE BEECHES
 2825 LEXINGTON ROAD
 LOUISVILLE, - KENTUCKY

Oct. 1, 1934.

My dear Dr. Speer, -

My heart goes out to you in tenderest love as I learn (today) of the tragic going of your son. I did not know him but I have loved you and admired you so extravagantly that I cannot let this night pass without sending you a simple word of tender sympathy. I shall pray definitely and daily that our Father, the God of Comfort, may give to you just the blessings that you need.

You can never know how you have helped me and blessed my life. I am grateful to God for you every day and shall do my utmost to put into my service to Him more devotion, zeal and earnestness.

Blessings on you, dear Comrade.

Tenderly and devotedly,
 Kyle M Gates

Numbers 6:24-26

Isa. 43:1-3

Phil. 1:3.

Ps. 37:4,5

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
 New York, N.Y.

678

I. M. Y.
746 N. CUYLER AVENUE
OAK PARK, ILL.

September 16, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer,
Foreign Mission Board,
156 Fifth Avenue,
New York, New York.

My dear Dr. Speer:

I have just read in the Chicago papers the shocking and distressing news of the tragedy that has come to your son at his home. My heart goes to you and Mrs. Speer at this hour of your sorrow and grief. I want to express to you my heartfelt sympathy for you in this hour of your grief.

It is a pity that such a noble son in the height of his career in the religious and educational service of his country should have been lost.

My prayers are to our Heavenly Father that He should give you grace to endure all the sufferings of the hour.

Very sincerely yours,

Isaac M. Yonan

IMY*D

(Isaac M. Yonan)

57

834 CHALMERS PLACE
CHICAGO, ILL.

Sept. 17, 1934.

Dear Dr. Speer,

This is just a very, very, simple word of sympathy coming from two hearts that can never forget your expression of sympathy under similar, but much less perplexing conditions. Mr. Zeno and myself are thinking of and praying for Mrs. Speer and yourself--

With tender affection

Andrew C. Zeno

678

The University of New Mexico,
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
ALBUQUERQUE

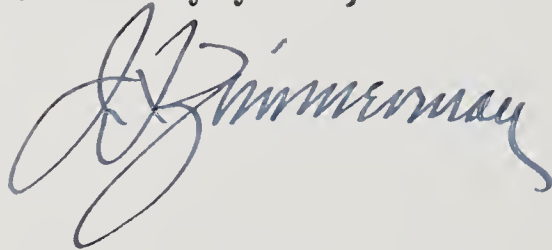
September 26, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer, Secretary
Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions
New York City

My dear Dr. Speer:

I am writing to express to you my deepest
personal sympathy in the great sorrow that
has come to you in the loss of your son.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "J. Zimmerman". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name "Sincerely yours,".

THE THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY

SAMUEL M. ZWEMER

48 MERCER STREET

September 20, 1934

Dr. Robert E. Speer
Rockledge
Lakeville, Connecticut

My dear Robert:

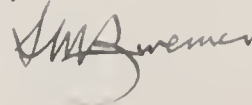
Your loving letter of September 18 in your own hand deeply moved me and Mrs. Zwemer. We will continue in prayer for you and your family.

As you say, the mystery of death is not the greatest mystery, but the mystery of human sin in its impact on innocent lives. We pray for you often.

I am sending you enclosed a copy of an article which the Archbishop of York sent for THE MUSLIM WORLD after my interview. There are one or two paragraphs in it that you may like to use. It will be published in our January issue.

With all my heart's love,

Your friend,



SMZ:B

Good
24th.

Princeton N. J.
Saturday P. M.

Dear Robert - Only an hour ago I learned of the
dreadful tragedy that ended the noble life of your dear
son at Westfield. How I wish I could express my deep
sorrow and sympathy for you Mrs. Speer in your loss
but all human words are inadequate.

May the God of all comfort who comforteth us in all
our tribulation comfort you with His felt presence and
his abiding peace.

I am writing these few lines in bed - still convalescing -
and beg you to pardon their informality.

Mrs. Zwemer & I are remembering you & your family in
prayer & she joins me in expression of our deep &
abiding sympathy & love.

Yours always in Christ
S. W. Zwemer